

THE MAGAZINES.

Dr. Holmes as a sonnet on "Neering the Snow Line"—a welcome to old age. T. W. Parsons gracefully apostrophizes "I Guide Resolutions." An extract is given from Mr. Bryant's forthcoming translation of Homer, "The Descent of Neptune to aid the Greeks." This is an array of poetical contributions which no other magazine in America can rival. Among the prose articles there is both variety and distinguished merit. Col. T. W. Higginson's essay on "Americanism in Literature" is an admirable reproof against the imitation of English models by writers and Journalists of the United States, and a plea for that more vigorous literary life which now that the literary class has been brought into sympathy with the popular heart, he believes is soon to be developed. "The greatest transatlantic success," he says, "which American novelists have yet attained—those won by Cooper and Mrs. Stowe—were come through a daring Americanism of subject-matter, and a boldness of treatment, which no European world—first the Italian, then the negro, whatever the merit of the work, it was plainly the theme which conquered. Such success are not easily to be repeated, for they were based on temporary situations never to recur. But they prepare the way for higher triumphs to be won by a profounder treatment—the introduction into literature, not of new tribes alone, but of the American spirit. To analyze combinations of character that only our national life produces, to portray dramatic situations that belong to a larger social atmosphere, is the higher Americanism. Of course to cope with such themes in such a spirit is less easy than to describe a foray or a tournament, or to multiply indefinitely such still-life pictures as the stereotyped English

should be given only to the man or the thing which is
whether good or bad, is of real importance." That is to say
things which are merely interesting must be passed over
although no consideration of decency or morality may
forbid their notice. "It seems to be assumed," he says
"that the mere fact that a number of people take enough
interest in a man or a thing to go and hear him, or see
it, makes that man or that thing worthy of notice in a
newspaper." Certainly it is, and very rightly so as we
assumed. If it were not, our newspapers would be
mere Grading organs, storehouses of hard facts, as
dull as a dictionary. If people are interested how and
then it trifles, there is no reason why they should not be
amused, provided the amusement is not too gross. If we
printed nothing which was not of real importance, how
many people would buy our paper! And if we had no
customers except to pay our expenses how could we
print more of real importance? Of course, we
must mean that any decent newspaper will print every
thing which a few hundred people would like to
read; that would be the direct road to
fame. But the successful, and we may add
the useful, editor must consider not only what will
be good for his subscribers but also what they want, and if
he can do so with a safe conscience he must let them
have it, even if be trivial. We have on our table now
an excellent number of *The Galaxy*; it is full of just the
kind of articles that almost everybody likes to read; none
of them are bad; but how many would Mr. Grant Whitman
deem of real importance?—We have left ourselves but
room to speak of the rest of the magazine as it deserves;
we can only add that "Russet Fielding" is finished; that
Walt Whitman howls over the death of George Peabody.

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